

BRINTON (J. H.)

*With the Compliments  
of the Author*

THE FACULTY OF 1841.

A LECTURE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

March 11th, 1880.

BY

JOHN H. BRINTON, M.D. ✓



PHILADELPHIA:  
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IN accepting the honor conferred upon me by the Alumni Association of being your spokesman this evening, I feel that I have assumed a grave duty. Our alumni meeting may be regarded as a family gathering, an assemblage of men of common stock, who, travellers on divergent paths, have once more come together under the old roof tree. In truth, it seems to me that we are met as kinsfolk, long sundered by time and circumstance, may meet. Does not the talk on such occasions fall upon the dear old home, the much-loved family, its history, past and present? Do they not speak of the strong who have done well, and of the weak who have gone to the wall? Do they not tenderly cherish the memory of the brave and the good who have passed away? Do they not love to linger upon the hereditations of their race, and to mark how, in this generation, and in that, the old blood tells? For surely the present welfare of a House is influenced by the wisdom

or folly of its members in the past; and if this be true of families, is it not equally so of institutions? To elevate and maintain in greatness an institution of learning is no easy task. It can only be done by the unanimous, well-directed, and persevering efforts of all its teachers.

When we regard the School to which we owe our professional allegiance, we may well wonder. Its foundation—fifty-five years ago—was looked upon with derision, and its existence was regarded as ephemeral. Its enemies—and it had many—foretold its speedy dissolution; even its friends had scant faith in its vitality. Yet, look upon it *now*. The Jefferson College holds no second place in medical teaching. Its rank is in the front; its reputation stretches beyond our Continent; its army of alumni is scattered over the earth. It is, gentlemen, but waste of words to speak of what our School is, for it confronts us in its own majesty.

\* For the facts embodied in this address, not within the author's personal knowledge, he is indebted to the following sources: The biographical notices of George McClellan, M.D., by Dr. S. G. Morton; of Franklin Bache, M.D., by Dr. Wood; of Robley Dunglison, M.D., LL.D., by Dr. Gross, and of Charles D. Meigs, M.D., by Dr. J. F. Meigs, all read before the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; obituary notices of C. D. Meigs, M.D., by Dr. John Bell, and of Franklin Bache, M.D., by Dr. Wood, read before the American Philosophical Society; the Alumni addresses of Drs. Hatfield, Gross, and Atlee; the Inaugural addresses of Professors Rand, Mitchell, Dickson, J. Pancoast, Gross, Dunglison, and Biddle; the address of Dr. Keen at the dissolution of the Philadelphia School of Anatomy in 1875, and the College archives.

I believe, however, that we may with profit on this occasion glance at the causes which have led to such success, and try to seize those points in the character of the school which have made it what it is; for I am sure that an institution of letters may possess an individuality as marked as does the living man. Think of the persons you know who have risen to place and power, and positions of trust. You will generally be able to trace their success to the possession of some one or two dominant traits. A man may, in many respects, be as the crowd around him, but he has within him something which his neighbor lacks. He may have

boldness—audacity, if you like; stern purpose, will, industry, the judgment to recognize the critical moment, the gift of imparting enthusiasm to others; the power to be a leader, and thus from one cause or other, he outstrips other runners, and in the end he wins. If we examine closely the lives of those who have worn the professorial robe in the Jefferson College, it is not difficult to comprehend the causes which have made the school great and popular. I think—and I believe that you will agree with me—that the one great feature in the teachings of the school has been its practical character. From its foundation, the single object of the Faculty has been to make its graduates good physicians, to send forth men trained and self-reliant, able to fight honestly and bravely the battle of professional life; men so educated as to be useful in that state of life to which it has pleased God to call them, and thus able to command the respect and love of the communities in which they might live.

The history of the Jefferson College is naturally divided into two well-marked periods, the first of which extends from its organization in 1825, or, to speak more accurately, from December 20, 1824, the date of the first Faculty meeting, to the year 1841; the second from the latter year to the present time. As you all know, the school was born of Genius. Its existence was due more to the exertions of Dr. George McClellan, than to those of any other person or persons. He it was, who obtained the charter of the school, organized its first Faculty, and by his personal exertions, in no slight degree, gathered the early classes. He had, too, most able colleagues in Drs. Eberle, Rhees, Beattie, N. R. Smith, Green, and subsequently in Drake, of Cincinnati. Resignations and withdrawals from the Faculty were, however, most unfortunately frequent, the vacancies being in turn filled by Drs. Samuel McClellan, Granville Sharp Pattison, Revere, Calhoun, and, in 1836, by Dr. Robley Dunglison; in 1838, by Dr. R. M. Huston; and in 1839 by Dr. Joseph Pancoast, McClellan's successor in the chair of surgery. The classes during the first fifteen years of the life of the College varied greatly. In 1826, 1827, and 1828, the respective graduating classes num-

bered 20, 34, and 25. In 1828-9 the attending class was 110, and the graduates numbered 26. In 1833, the number of students was 96; in 1834, 172; in 1835-6, 364, with 134 graduates. In 1839-40, the class had fallen away to 145.

The causes of the decline of the School at this period were varied; but the chief were dissensions in the Faculty, and consequent resignations. The public began to lose confidence in an institution which had apparently lost faith in itself. It is true that its Professors were not ordinary men; they were able, and more than able; they possessed energy, learning, and many good qualities, but unfortunately they were not actuated by that spirit of harmony, which, as has been said by Dr. Gross, in his sketch of this period of the life of the College, can alone prevent the downfall of medical institutions. From one cause or other, it therefore soon became evident that the preservation of the school could only be achieved by the entire re-organization of its Faculty, and this was accordingly done by the Board of Trustees, who vacated, by resolution, all of the chairs, and then effected a complete reconstruction of the Faculty. Dr. Dunglison was re-elected to the chair of Institutes, Dr. Pancoast was transferred from the chair of Surgery to that of Anatomy, and Dr. Huston from that of Obstetrics to that of Therapeutics and Materia Medica. The remaining vacant chairs were filled by the election of Dr. J. K. Mitchell to that of Practice; Dr. T. D. Mütter to that of Surgery; Dr. C. D. Meigs to that of Obstetrics, and Dr. Franklin Bache to that of Chemistry.

From 1841 to 1856, but one change occurred in the Faculty; in the latter year the resignation of Dr. Mütter took place, when the present illustrious Professor of Surgery was elected to the vacant chair. During these years, the period of the true rise and healthy growth of the school, the attitude of the Faculty was one of harmony, nay, of unanimity. Many of those great advances in teaching were then effected which gave the stamp to the school, and helped not a little to bring about that prosperity which has lasted, unbroken, to the present day. Chief among these was the successful development of the great system of Collegiate Clinics. The



establishment of such a means of teaching had been in the minds of successive Faculties from the very beginning of the institution. Indeed, an infirmary had been opened within the walls of the Jefferson College in May, 1825, in advance of its first session, and on the 9th of that month Dr. George McClellan performed the first surgical operation in the anatomical amphitheatre.\* The system of practical teaching thus introduced was continued, with more or less regularity, down to the period of the re-organization. By the new Faculty, the collegiate clinic—medical, as well as surgical—was made a prominent feature in the weekly curriculum. To use the words of Professor Mitchell in his introductory of 1847, the clinic became “the right arm of the College.” In addition to the clinics of the College, the class had access to the lectures at the Pennsylvania Hospital, and at the Blockley Almshouse. To the latter they were carried twice a week in large omnibuses hired for the purpose, the students often crowding the top, as well as the interior of the vehicles. This disorderly transportation was an event of great delight to all small urchins on the route, and afforded in winter, as I well recollect, inestimable chances for snowballing and boyish sharpshooting.

The mode of instruction by collegiate clinics met at first with opposition; it was denounced and sneered at. It was said that it was imperfect and insufficient, that it conveyed false impressions, and was calculated to mislead rather than to instruct. It may be that at first it was imperfect. It undoubtedly was inferior in some respects to hospital clinics, nevertheless it was a great step in advance, and the defects in the system soon brought their own remedy. In the early days of the clinics, I mean after 1841, patients who had undergone serious operations were sent to their homes in carriages, under the charge of a clinical clerk. A little later, about 1843 or 1844, one or two rooms were rented from a stove maker, over his shop, at the S. W. corner of Tenth and Sansom Streets, and thither grave cases operated upon before the class were conveyed and treated. After a while

these accommodations proved insufficient to meet the wants of the growing clinics, and in 1849 or '50, possibly a little earlier, a floor and a half, or two floors were rented over a bottling establishment, then standing on the ground now occupied by the laboratories of the College. In the course of a few years, additional room having become necessary, this building was remodelled, and a very comfortable sort of miniature hospital was arranged, capable of accommodating fourteen or fifteen patients. This opened directly into the College building, and the fireproof door through which patients were carried from the clinical amphitheatre to their beds is, I am sure, familiar to many of my hearers. This small hospital served its purpose from 1843 until the 7th of September, 1877, when the new Jefferson College Hospital was officially opened by the Trustees of the College for clinical purposes. It is here worthy of mention, that the anæsthetic power of sulphuric ether was first exhibited in Philadelphia, at the clinic of the Jefferson College, December 23, 1846, by Dr. Mütter. The operation was the removal of a tumor from the cheek.

The hospital facilities afforded by the stove maker's room and the bottler's upper stories may seem to us now to have been meagre enough, but they were sufficient for the needs of the day. It is true that the administration was not a burdensome one. The kitchen stove of the family below furnished the patients diet, a nurse at so much a week cared for them, and the clinical clerks were the resident doctors. Hard worked these latter were too. For my part, I can remember many a night of waking and bedside watching within those narrow, cramped, and musty walls. I have sat since then at many a well-ordered table, but never have I relished dainties as I did then the savory oyster and steaming midnight cup of coffee served by the order of a crafty Faculty to ensure the wakefulness of the fagged-out watcher. But, alas! the quaint little hospital has passed away, and the jolly Old Tapster has long since ceased to count his bottles.

The first on the list of the Faculty of 1841, by priority of appointment, was Dr. ROBLEY DUNGLISON. He was born January 4, 1798, at Keswick, in Cumberland, the beautiful lake

\* Prof. J. K. Mitchell's Charge to the Graduates, March 9th, 1850.



country of the north of England. His early education was pursued at excellent schools in Cumberland, where every attention was paid to his classical and mathematical studies. In his seventeenth year he began the study of medicine in Cumberland, and afterwards went up to London. He subsequently attended one course of lectures at the University of Edinburgh, visited Paris, and, returning to London, passed his examination at the Royal College of Surgeons and at Apothecaries Hall. He commenced practice in 1819 in London. His medical degree he obtained at Erlangen in 1824. Dr. Dunglison at first intended to restrict himself to medical and obstetrical practice, especially the latter, and had announced a course of lectures on midwifery for the autumn of 1824. He had also begun his career as an author, and was about associating himself in literary pursuits with his friend Dr. Copland, the writer of the well-known dictionary.

It was just at this time that he received from ex-President Jefferson, the Rector of the University of Virginia, the offer of a comprehensive chair in that institution. In the latter part of October he sailed for this country, but so long and tedious was the voyage, that he did not arrive at Charlottesville until the middle of February, 1825. He remained at the University nine years, winning fame as a lecturer, and moreover building up that reputation as an author and man of letters which has served to make his name illustrious.

In 1833 he became Professor of Therapeutics, *Materia Medica*, Hygiene, and Medical Jurisprudence at the University of Maryland. In June, 1836, he was elected to the chair of the Institutes of Medicine in the Jefferson Medical College, a chair which was created for him, and which he occupied until the early part of 1868. He was thus for a third of a century a Professor of the school. During his residence in Virginia he was the physician of Jefferson and Madison, with both of whom he was on the most intimate terms of friendship, a friendship which he delighted to recall.

In 1854, after an absence of thirty years, he revisited his old home in England. Dr. Lonsdale, in his "Worthies of Cumberland," has described this visit, and says: "His mother

was still a fine looking old lady, dressed in the old style, wearing a turban, and altogether a striking person; unfortunately, her memory had so failed her that she could not recognize him. This, it need not be said, was a great disappointment to Dr. Dunglison, but he showed much equanimity, and delighted to talk with her by the hour of bygone days, when she would generally conclude by saying to him, 'So you have seen Robley; he was the best boy that ever was.' " In the autumn of 1854 Dr. Dunglison returned to America. He had engaged passage for himself and his two sisters on the steamer *Arctic*; in consequence, however, of pressing letters from the Dean of the College, urging the necessity of his immediate return, he anticipated the day of his departure, and sailed in the *Pacific*. He thus, fortunately for the Jefferson College, escaped the sad fate of those who perished in the ill-starred vessel.

Dr. Dunglison was an extraordinary man, a man of learning in the highest sense of the term, familiar alike with the classics of medicine and with the medical literature of the day. No professional topic escaped his keen observation. He was cognizant of all theories, but was carried away by none. The bent of his mind was eminently judicial. He listened, as it were, patiently to all arguments, sifted all evidence; with rare discrimination he rejected the false and held fast to the true, and his decision, once arrived at, was in the end almost always correct. He was not an enthusiast; he was not an ardent investigator or an experimenter in the modern sense of the term. He preferred rather to analyze the researches of others, and to base his findings upon accumulated evidence. To vivisection in all its forms he had an unconquerable dislike. The experiments on the gastric juice, which he devised and assisted in carrying out, in the famous Alexis St. Martin case, reported by Dr. Beaumont, were, however, very valuable, and greatly interested him in their bearings on the digestive functions.

As a writer I need scarcely speak of him; his works, the "*literæ scriptæ*," remain, testifying to his industry, patience, research, learning, and sound judgment. So numerous are they that their very roll-call here would be tedious. I mention only his treatises upon the Practice



of Medicine, his Therapeutics and *Materia Medica*, his *New Remedies*, Physiology, the Medical Dictionary, in itself an enduring monument to his name, various translations, editions of the physiological writings of others, one of Forbes's *Cyclopædia*, and very many articles, professional and non-professional, contributed to medical and lay journals. Of the latter, I would quote from Dr. Gross's exhaustive memoir of Dr. Dunglison, read before the College of Physicians, and to which I am indebted for many facts, the following: Articles on Road making, English fashions in the seventeenth century, The construction of words from sounds, English pronunciations, Penitentiary discipline, Universities, The Legends of the English lakes, Richard the Lion-hearted and Blondel, Superstitions, Americanisms, Early German poetry, Etymological History, Sanscrit Language, Ancient and Modern Gymnasia, Cradle of mankind, English Orthoepey, Canals of the Ancients, Jeffersoniana, Biographical and Obituary notes, and many others. He also, in conjunction with Mr. Chapin, Principal of the Institution for the Blind in this city, prepared a voluminous Dictionary for the Blind in raised type. Dr. Dunglison was undoubtedly the most popular medical writer of his generation, the sale of his books having reached in the aggregate more than 150,000 copies. His greater works, the text-books and the Dictionary, passed through many editions. Some of them were sure to be found upon the table of nearly every practitioner in our land, and this it was that gave to Dr. Dunglison his wonderful hold upon the American profession.

Dr. Dunglison's appreciation of character was remarkable. His judgment of the moral attributes of men, often based upon apparently trifling circumstances, which escaped the observation of others, was rarely at fault. As I look back now upon his beliefs, I may almost say his prophecies, as to the future of those just starting in professional life, I am astonished at his penetration. As a friend to the young, no one was more true; no advice was more to be depended upon than his. His knowledge of the world was so accurate, his observation and habits of thought were so close, that his conclusions were usually just. In the expression

of his opinions he was guarded and cautious, qualities which he inculcated in others.

Dr. Dunglison was a fluent speaker, his language was lucid and elegant, he never wanted for a word, and every word was well chosen. In fact, his diction was Johnsonian, and his lectures, delivered extemporaneously, never failed to command the undivided attention of his class. He stood before the world the representative of the Medical Sciences, and the honors heaped upon him from so many lands, a membership in more than a hundred scientific bodies, testified to the esteem in which he was held. He was a truly learned man, such a one as is not often met with, and his death, which took place in April, 1869, was a loss not only to the Jefferson College, but to the great community of scholars and to the medical profession of the world.

Dr. ROBERT M. HUSTON was a native of Virginia, and was born in 1794. During the war of 1812 he served as an Assistant Surgeon in the Army, and, after the close of the war, he settled in Philadelphia, and entered into active practice. In 1838 he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics in the Old Faculty, and in 1841, at the reorganization of the school, he was elected to the chair of Therapeutics and *Materia Medica*. He was then chosen by his colleagues Dean of the Faculty, which position he held until 1854. In 1855 he resigned his chair, and was elected by the trustees Emeritus Professor of the same branch. Dr. Huston's lectures, which were delivered from manuscript, were marked by honesty and faithfulness in teaching. He dwelt much upon therapeutics, and always sought to guard his classes against the heroic use and abuse of medicines. In addition to his qualifications as a teacher, Dr. Huston possessed great business abilities. He was a thoroughly cool-headed, clear-sighted man, and, in his position as Dean, he contributed much, far more probably than will ever be known, to build up the College, to regulate its business relations, and to preserve the Institution upon a sound financial basis.

Third upon the list of the Faculty of 1841 stands a name familiar to us all, familiar and beloved, JOSEPH PANCOAST. Perhaps I have no right to speak of him this evening, and I fear that



even an indulgent audience may think that in so doing, I tread beyond the bounds of proper delicacy; yet how can I speak of the success of the Jefferson College and be silent on that one name? How can I shut my eyes upon that grand figure, which for five and thirty years has loomed out so distinctly? May I not then, with many another, offer my little tribute of respect to him? May I not add my single rose to the garlands heaped at the feet of this dear, this venerable Gamaliel?

In 1839 Dr. Pancoast was elected to the chair of Surgery (succeeding Dr. George McClellan), and this position he held until 1841, when in the reconstructed school he assumed the chair of Anatomy. As Professor of the latter branch he remained until 1874, when he retired from the active duties of his chair, with the well merited title of Emeritus Professor conferred upon him by the Trustees of the school. Since that time he has on frequent occasions evinced his continuing interest in the College by revisiting his old haunts, thus showing to successive gratified classes in the clinic, that his right hand had not yet lost its cunning. In 1877 the formal opening of the new Jefferson College Hospital was, at the request of the Trustees, inaugurated by Dr. Pancoast in an eloquent address. It is unnecessary for me here to speak of Dr. Pancoast as an operator. The fame of his skill is world wide. As an instance of its appreciation by the Profession at large, I may state that in 1876 the military medical representative of a great European nation showed me his private instructions from the Medical Bureau of the War Department of his government. Almost first among these was the order, "Visit Dr. Pancoast, see him operate, and report."

As I look back on the many years during which, as Student and Alumnus, I have gone to and fro in the Jefferson College, I can realize the important part in the every-day life of the school which Dr. Pancoast played. As Professor of Anatomy, and as a sharer in the responsibilities of the surgical clinic, his influence over the class was very great. It was, too, an influence altogether in the right direction. His great object was to teach anatomy, not the anatomy of the dead, but rather of the living. With him it was anatomy applied; medical

anatomy, surgical anatomy. In his hands the dry bones lost their dryness, they became as it were living exponents of injuries and diseases. Their growth, their size, their measurements served as themes for discourses of the most pregnant character. No zealous student could faithfully attend his lectures and fail to carry away with him a mass of practical information of inestimable value in his future professional life. Dr. Pancoast's consummate knowledge of human anatomy and his vast surgical experience had so enriched his mind that his teachings were instinctive and without effort. His wealth of surgical learning and surgical resource has been as an ever-living spring, which defies repression, and which overflows in perpetual beneficent irrigation. Versed himself in the learning of the books, the charm of his lectures lay in that unwritten surgery which ever fell from his lips. This it was, I think, more than anything else which has given that value to his anatomical discourses, which only those who have heard him can appreciate. No one contributed more than he to enhance the surgical renown of the Jefferson College; no one possessed a more solid reputation, and now, in his declining years, I know right well that grateful Alumni throughout our land will join with me in invoking a blessing on his honored head.

From the reorganization of the Faculty until 1858, the chair of the Practice of Medicine in the College was brilliantly filled by Dr. JOHN K. MITCHELL, and by his death the first break was made in the ranks of this veteran corps of professors. Dr. Mitchell, the son and grandson of a physician, was born in 1793 in Virginia. He was of Scotch extraction, and was educated in Scotland, receiving his academic degrees at the University of Edinburgh. In 1816 he commenced the study of medicine as the pupil of Dr. Chapman at the University of Pennsylvania, from which institution he was graduated in medicine. His health being somewhat impaired at that time, he made three voyages to China in professional charge of a merchantman bound to Calcutta and Canton. Having returned to this country he settled in Philadelphia, and gradually acquired the very large practice which he held until his death. Dr. Mitchell early assumed the duties of a teacher. In 1822



he was appointed lecturer upon Medical Chemistry in the Philadelphia Medical Institute, the first summer school established in this city. He was subsequently chosen as Professor of Chemistry in the Franklin Institute, and in 1841, as we have seen, he was elected to the chair of Practice of Medicine in the Jefferson College, which he so long graced.

Dr. Mitchell's was not an idle life, for he made many contributions to science and to medicine. The papers in which he studied, with great skill and fertile ingenuity, the osmosis of fluids and gases, were translated into many languages, and were, when written, the most important contribution made by any American to this branch of physics. This is not the place to analyze these works, nor to do more than mention his discovery of the solvents of caoutchouc, and his study of the tests for arsenic. The solidification of gaseous carbonic acid also attracted the observation of Dr. Mitchell, and he devised an apparatus for this purpose. In 1830 and 1831 he drew attention to the spinal origin of rheumatism, and he was the first to point out the occurrence of joint troubles in diseases of the spinal cord. The use of nitrate of silver in typhoid fever, a treatment recently revived in this city, was also originally advised by him. His invention of the spine car for cases of vertebral disease was, too, a valuable contribution, involving, as it did, the suggestion of a curative treatment by extension of the trunk and support of the head. I believe, also, that one or two minor surgical instruments were due to Dr. Mitchell's ingenuity. In 1849 he published his view, on the cryptogamous origin of malarious fevers, which he afterwards extended to embrace cholera, plague, and yellow fever.

During his long and useful career, Dr. Mitchell, in addition to his strictly professional lectures, delivered many discourses on chemical and scientific subjects. Some of these were in the form of orations before learned bodies, others of a more popular nature before historical and social societies. Prominent among these addresses was one upon the "Wisdom of God as displayed in the Formation of Water;" another on "The Practical Interrogation of Nature;" and a third on the "Means of Elevating the Character of the Working Classes:" all given

before the Franklin Institute. Wherever delivered Dr. Mitchell's discourses were marked by profound and original thought, deep learning, and extensive reading. A vein of poetic imagination ran through all his works, and served to give grace and interest to his studies and descriptions of the most technical subjects. In addition to his scientific writings he also published a volume of poems.

In person Dr. Mitchell was tall and portly, with a gentle polished bearing. He was open handed and hospitable, a charming companion, a man of genial manners, and yet of great dignity of character. He was greatly beloved by his classes, and their affection for him he strongly reciprocated. He was the student's friend. In sickness and trouble they turned to him, and never sought his aid in vain. Many a poor young fellow, struggling in the vortex of a great city's temptation, has he sustained by his wise counsel and kindly sympathy. Many a needy student has he helped from his own purse, and none the wiser. In his college lectures he was exceedingly happy; his terseness, his power of illustration, his way of putting things, his anecdote and lively wit made a favorable impression on the class, an impression strengthened by their personal love for their teacher. He died in harness, holding his professorship to the end. The last official act of his life was the commencement reception of the graduating class of 1858 at his house. His health at that time was feeble, and the question arose whether the entertainment should not be given by one of his colleagues. He insisted, however, on giving it himself, saying that he would probably not live to give another. His misgivings were prophetic; in a month he had passed away, leaving behind him the reputation of a distinguished teacher, a zealous investigator, a most eminent practitioner, and a blameless citizen. To quote the words of the board of Trustees of the school, "he had proven himself one of the most valued members of the Jefferson Medical College."

One of the most remarkable men of the Faculty of 1841, and one of the most original, was Dr. CHARLES D. MEIGS, the Professor of Obstetrics. He was born at St. George's, one of the Bermudas, in 1792, his father having

gone there from Connecticut to practise as Proctor in the English Courts of Admiralty. In 1796 Mr. Meigs returned to America, and was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Yale College. In 1801 he was chosen President of the University of Georgia, and removed with his family to the seat of the University at Athens, Georgia. Here young Charles Meigs was classically educated, and, at the same time, he acquired from the Professor of French, an accomplished emigré named Petit de Clairviere, that perfect knowledge of the French language which he retained through life.

About twenty-eight miles from Athens was the Indian country, inhabited by the Cherokees, Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws. The Indian agent, who lived at Hiawassee, Tennessee, was Colonel R. J. Meigs, Charles's uncle. The boy, in some way or other, having formed a friendship with a noted scapegrace Cherokee, Jim Vann, a sort of trader, was, at his own earnest solicitation, permitted to accompany the latter up into the Indian country. Here he spent some little time, and learned much of the wild Indian life. These recollections he retained always, and I have heard him on more than one occasion allude in vivid description to his boyish experiences.

Dr. Meigs graduated at the University of Georgia in 1809, and then studied medicine, attending two courses of lectures, 1812-1813 and 1814-1815, at the University of Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1815 he married a Philadelphia lady, and very shortly began practice at Augusta, Georgia, although he did not receive his medical degree until April, 1817, at which time he was still in Georgia. In the summer of that year he moved to Philadelphia, and established himself on Eighth Street above Race, afterwards removing to Arch above Sixth. For some years Dr. Meigs made slow progress in private practice, although he was busily engaged in writing for the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*, the offspring of the Kappa Lambda Society. He also took great interest in the Philadelphia Medical Society, and was one of its most active debaters. Notwithstanding his literary work, he had, at this period, much unoccupied time upon his

hands, some of which he spent, as we are told by his son, Dr. J. F. Meigs, in his Memoir of his father, in a little workshop fitted up in the garret of his house. Here he did carpenter work, and worked on his lathe in wood and metal. I fancy, too, that some of that skill in modelling clay and wax, which I have so often wondered at, was attributable to this garret experience.

In the early part of his life Dr. Meigs, as is stated by one of his biographers, Dr. Bell, had a great aversion to the practice of obstetrics, but, under the advice of wise friends, he afterwards devoted himself largely to this branch of the profession. In 1831 he published a translation of Velpeau's Treatise on Midwifery, and in 1838 an original work, his "Philadelphia Practice of Midwifery." Hufeland's work on Scrofula he had translated in 1829. In 1841 he was called to the chair of "Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children" at the Jefferson Medical College, a position which he held for twenty-two years. In 1845 he translated the treatise of Colombat de L'Isère on the Diseases and Hygiene of Females. In 1848 he published his work on "Woman and her Diseases," and in 1849 his treatise on "Obstetrics, the Science and the Art." In 1850 his book upon Certain Diseases of Young Children appeared, and in 1854 a small work on "Childbed Fevers," followed in the same year by a volume on the "Acute and Chronic Diseases of the Neck of the Uterus," embellished with plates, some plain, others colored. The latter were from his own brush, and these artistic labors gave him the greatest pleasure. I can very well remember that just at that time he was so kind as to ask me one evening to his office to give me, as he said, a lesson in water-coloring. He was then painting for class demonstration a picture afterwards reproduced in his book, and was washing in the color with an unsparing hand. In my ignorance I ventured to ask, "Is there not too much water?" "Too much water, too much water," said the Doctor, starting up, "by George, no, you can't have too much water;" and dashing a tumblerful of colored water on the picture until it ran on to the floor, he added, "See how I will rub it into the picture, and soak it up," which he did.



Dr. Meigs's manner before the class was peculiar and singularly impressive. He was eminently a scholar, and always seemed to me to aim to teach not only his branch, but something more. He loved to dwell upon the value of learning, and to inculcate above all things that the physician should be a cultured man, or, as he put it, a member of the great Scholar Class. He was forcible in expression, apt in illustration, a lover of the arts, and blessed with a poetic and fervid imagination. With the mummied bones of an Egyptian girl before him, I have heard him in an enraptured burst recall the glories of Egypt's ancient days. At his magic words the scene rose up. There stood the palace, there the temple, where trod the priests of Isis; yonder lay the brick fields thronged with the Hebrew slaves; at his feet the Nile murmured, there among the tangled rushes floated the wicker basket, and for the moment Teacher and Class stood in the presence of Pharaoh's daughter.

No member of his many classes will, I am sure, ever forget Dr. Meigs and the strange charm of his words; at times poetic, at times charged with quaint humor; now rising to the highest pitch of philosophic reasoning, now sinking to impress laboriously upon the student mind the beauties of Carus's curve. One characteristic of his teaching was his zealous effort to bring others, and notably his class, to think as he did. He was all earnestness, and immovable in his own convictions, he sought to make all share them with him. On the subject of anæsthesia in parturition, he held the most decided views. Pain in that condition he regarded as physiological. To banish it, in his opinion, was unwise, indeed almost impious. In a series of pleasant letters this whole matter was discussed by Sir James Y. Simpson and himself, and I recollect the pleasure he evinced in reading these letters to his class.

Dr. Meigs took great pains to demonstrate the dangers of ether inhalation, and I recall an amusing incident in this relation. One afternoon he decided to etherize a sheep *to death*, to show how easily animal life might be destroyed by this, in his opinion, dangerous agent. So a sheep was brought into the amphitheatre and heroically etherized by the demonstrator of

anatomy, the present Professor of Obstetrics. The ether was poured from a demijohn, air was carefully excluded, and, after some struggling, and towards the end of the lecture, the desired end, to the Professor's great delight, was apparently obtained. The invited guests held formal inquest, and a verdict of "death from ether" was solemnly found. The carcass was removed, a few remarks on the moral of the exhibition, and the criminal foolhardiness of all ether givers followed, and the class was dismissed. But, alas! as the students bounded down the stairs, a plaintive *baa* from the retiring room raised most suggestive doubts; for if that doomed sheep had escaped, then in truth the fatal attributes of ether must have been overstated. Dr. Meigs, I believe, somewhat modified his opinions regarding anæsthesia towards the end of his life. As regards chloroform he was inexorable, but he subsequently admitted, as I have been told, that in pressing cases ether might be used with advantage in parturition. A point of pathology which greatly engaged his attention was, that of heart clots. He dwelt much upon embolism in his lectures, and it seems to me that he is fairly entitled to share the credit usually assigned to Virchow in this respect, if indeed he did not anticipate him in his investigations.

Dr. Meigs was a very busy man. A great and wearying practice, his literary pursuits, and the duties of his chair told heavily upon him. In 1860 he resigned his professorship, although as Emeritus he, at the earnest request of the Board of Trustees, delivered the succeeding course in the enforced absence, from ill health, of the newly elected professor. This done, he sought, in his country home of Hamanasset, in Delaware County, the realization, as he hoped, of his life's wishes. And here he passed the remainder of his life, absorbed in his book, his garden, his flowers, and his study of vegetable physiology, fit resting-place after a life of toil. He died suddenly on the night of the 22d of June, 1869, leaving behind him the cherished memory of a learned, good, and gentle man.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE filled the chair of Chemistry in the Jefferson College from 1841 until his death, in 1864. As is well known, he was the oldest great-grandson of Dr.

Franklin, whose only daughter, Sarah, married, in 1767, Richard Bache, a young English gentleman from Lancashire. Dr. Bache was born Oct. 25, 1792, in a house built and owned by Dr. Franklin, on the south side of Market Street between Third and Fourth Streets, in this city. He entered the University of Pennsylvania, taking his degree of B. A. in 1810. He studied medicine in the office of Dr. Benjamin Rush, and, after his death, in that of his son Dr. James Rush, and graduated in medicine at the University in 1814. Before graduating, and during the war of 1812, he entered the army as surgeon's mate, a position equivalent to that of assistant surgeon, in the 32d Regiment of Infantry; and his name will thus be found in the few copies of the early Army Registers now extant. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of surgeon to the same regiment, and was appointed surgeon to the 2d Regiment of Infantry at the reorganization of the army after the war. In July, 1816, he resigned from the army, and entered upon private practice in this city. For many years he was physician to the old Walnut Street Prison, and later to the Eastern Penitentiary.

When very young Dr. Bache evinced a fondness for chemistry. As early as 1811 he wrote a paper on muriatic acid, and in 1819 he published a small volume on chemistry. During the subsequent years he contributed a series of original articles on the same subject to Ure's Dictionary of Chemistry, Turner's Chemistry, Henry's Chemistry, the American Cyclopædia of Medicine and Surgery, and other publications. In 1826 he was appointed Lecturer on Chemistry at the Franklin Institute, and in 1830 he became one of the Lecturers of the Combined Association for Medical Instruction and the School of Medicine, private associations which then numbered among their teachers the names, afterward so distinguished, of Wood, Bache, Parrish, Rhea Barton, Morton, Gibson, Randolph, C. D. Meigs, Coates, and La Roche. In 1841 he was elected Professor of Chemistry in the Jefferson Medical College. The first Pharmacopœia of the United States was published in 1820 at Boston, but at that time attracted little attention. In 1829 the revision of the Pharmacopœia and the publication of a second

edition was referred to a committee composed of Dr. Hewson, Dr. Wood, and Dr. Bache. This revised edition appeared in 1831, and was followed by the publication of the famous Dispensatory, the "Wood and Bache," in 1833, which passed rapidly through so many editions. Up to the time of Dr. Bache's death, we are informed by his biographer, Dr. Wood, from whose address I have in part gleaned the above facts, that not less than 79,000 copies had been sold.

If I were asked to describe Dr. Franklin Bache, I would speak of him as an entirely upright man; not merely upright in outward dealings, but in thought, and word, and deed. To his mind a matter was either right or wrong, true or false. He could not appreciate, as some do, intermediate shades. Venial sins he did not comprehend; of expediency he knew nothing. He was a man of absolute precision; and this quality he carried into all his relations in life. Thus it was that in the lecture-room, accuracy was the characteristic of his discourse; his speech was measured and slow, devoid of metaphor, free from all blemish. Every matter for discussion was well arranged, in its place, and brought forward for due consideration at the proper moment. He aimed to teach. With all his precision and apparent austerity, Dr. Bache possessed a fund of quaint humor, which often in conversation, and occasionally in the lecture-room, would find vent in a ludicrous allusion. He was greatly respected, and, indeed, held in awe by his classes. He retained his professorship until his death, which occurred March 19, 1864. I cannot better close my remarks on Franklin Bache than by quoting the last paragraph of the obituary oration of his old companion Dr. George B. Wood: "If I have succeeded in my aim, I have represented to you an extraordinary man, upon whose memory not a stain rests, and who while he worked diligently, and thus did much for the public good, has done still more within the limited circle where he was personally known, by presenting to the young men entering on the stage of active duties, an example for their imitation of all that is morally excellent, lovely, and of good report in manhood."

The last member of the Faculty of 1841, of



whom I shall speak to-night, was Dr. THOMAS D. MÜTTER, who was Professor of Surgery from 1841 to 1856. He was born at Richmond, Virginia, in 1811, and graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 1831. The following year he spent in Europe, chiefly in Paris. During his stay in that city Dr. Mütter followed the teachings of the great surgeons of that day, Dupuytren, Roux, Lisfranc, and Velpeau. He became at that time strongly imbued with the principles of the revived school of plastic surgery as expounded by Dieffenbach, Lisfranc, and Liston, and with the achievements of orthopædic surgery, of which Stromeyer and Dieffenbach may be regarded as the founders. In 1832 Dr. Mütter returned to America, and settled in this city, and sought strenuously to bring before the profession and the community the novelties with which he had been indoctrinated while abroad. As is the case with almost every one just starting, his success was at first slow. After a time, however, his efforts in plastic surgery, and his operations of tenotomy attracted attention, and he gradually rose into practice.

Dr. Mütter early applied himself to teaching and, in 1832, attempted, although unsuccessfully, to establish a class for medical examinations. In the following year he became associated with Dr. Paul B. Goddard in the private instruction of a large class of medical students. In 1835 he was appointed assistant teacher of surgery in the Philadelphia Medical Institute, one of the summer schools of the day.\*

It was in the Medical Institute that Dr. Müt-

ter found his first and true development. He excelled as a teacher, and here he was in his proper sphere. He possessed, as I have been told, at the very outset of his career those powers and capabilities which shone so conspicuously in him when promoted to his brilliant position in the chair of Surgery in the Jefferson College. I can well remember him in my student days, as he stood in yonder amphitheatre, beloved, nay almost worshipped, by his class. He was small in stature, delicately framed, with a clear, blue eye, high forehead, and hair prematurely gray. He possessed a wonderfully musical voice, which, even in its lowest notes, could be distinctly heard by his whole audience. His gesticulation was good and easy, his speech ready. His observation was quick, and he never failed to note at a glance the effect of his words, even upon the dullest listener. He was not a sluggish speaker; on the contrary, he always strove to lecture up to his highest mark, for he was conscious of his powers, and fond of that public approbation which their exertion invariably brought him. As a lecturer his great charm lay in his enthusiasm, and in his power of imparting something of his own spirit to his hearers. He possessed, too, a marvellous gift of stamping a fact, a theory, a doctrine, indelibly on the student's mind. He was orderly and systematic in the arrangement of his material, and apparently exhaustive in its treatment. He employed a copious illustration of diagrams, models, and specimens, and used them skilfully, so as to impress yet not confuse. He was, I think, in every respect an eloquent teacher, one whose words were not easily forgotten.

In his love for the Jefferson College, in his pride in its present, in his faith in its future, he was second to none. He believed that the Institution was entering upon a great era, and he longed in anticipation for such a hospital as, under the auspices of the Board of Trustees, has recently been established. I can remember his chagrin when a plan, emanating from himself and his colleague Dr. Mitchell, to purchase,

\* A passing allusion to these old time summer schools, which in their generation did such good service in medical teaching, may, perhaps, be not inappropriate. The oldest of these was the Medical Institute founded in 1818 or 1819, by Dr. Chapman; next was the Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction; then came the School of Medicine; and later, in 1842, the second Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction, which continued until the outbreak of the war in 1861. Among those who, at different periods, have lectured in the summer schools were Drs. Horner, Dewees, Hodge, Bell, Jackson, J. K. Mitchell, Harris, Parrish, Wood, Hewson, Samuel G. Morton, J. Rhea Barton, Bache, Randolph, C. D. Meigs, Gerhard, Pancoast, Mütter, Rush, Gibson, Coates, La Roche, John F. Meigs, the two Wallaces, Francis G. Smith, Allen, Keating, John H. B. McClellan,

Leidy, Bridges, West, Morton and Alfred Stillé, A. Hewson, Penrose, S. Weir Mitchell, Da Costa, Darrach, Brinton, and others.

at small cost, the buildings and ground adjoining the college for a hospital, came to naught. Brilliant as Dr. Mütter was in his didactic teachings, he surpassed himself in the clinical arena. In the every-day surgical operations he was careful and adroit; in the performance of those of great magnitude he leaned a little, yet always gracefully, upon the strong arm of his Colleague in Anatomy, his co-worker in the Surgical Clinic. I say co-worker, and this term is, I believe, peculiarly appropriate, for these two, each so excellent in his way, labored for many years shoulder to shoulder in a friendly co-operation, marvellous even in that harmonious Faculty. Mütter and Pancoast, Pancoast and Mütter, each striving to assist the other, and both contributing to the common end; the alleviation of human suffering, the welfare of the surgical clinic, and the advancement of the honor and renown of the Jefferson Medical College.

In 1856 Dr. Mütter was forced by ill-health to resign his chair in the School. He was then created by the Board of Trustees Emeritus Professor of Surgery. In the autumn of that year he visited Europe, hoping to find in the milder climate of Italy an alleviation of his sufferings. He spent the winter at Nice, a period to him of great bodily suffering and distress, and in 1858 he returned to this country. His health by this time had been greatly shattered by frequent attacks of gout and by occasional occurrences of hæmoptysis. Dreading another northern winter, he visited the Southern States, and died at Charleston on the 11th of March, 1859, at the age of forty-eight, leaving a reputation as Lecturer, Orator, and Teacher rarely equalled in the medical profession.

Dr. Mütter's private museum, which was very rich in specimens of surgical interest, he had presented during his lifetime to the College of Physicians. He accompanied the donation by the gift of thirty thousand dollars, under certain stipulations regarding the erection of a fireproof building. The funds which were put in trust were for the support of the Museum and for the Foundation of a Lectureship on Surgical Pathology. These conditions have all been complied with, and the Mütter Museum,

greatly enlarged by the purchase from its ample funds of valuable anatomical and surgical specimens, has already attracted great professional interest. It is each year being more and more visited and studied, and it is pleasant to think that although it has passed away from the Jefferson College, it is still a potent, although silent agent, in the dissemination of surgical knowledge and in the advancement of those interests and studies so dear to its Founder.

Gentlemen, I have this evening, in these few words, touched upon a past era in the history of our School, and have sought, for a moment to bring us all face to face with that Faculty which, with a single exception, has passed away. I trust that you will not think I have spoken too freely or flippantly of those who are gone, or that I have ventured with impious hand to uncover their dead lineaments. Be assured that in what I have said, I have been actuated only by a feeling of filial love for those who, in their lifetime, were very kind to me. Time in his flight brings many changes, levels many landmarks, wipes out many names. Yet I feel sure that through the mist of fleeting years, which is fast settling down between us and those of whom I have spoken, their figures will not wane, but rather stand out with an increasing grandeur. For in good truth, this Faculty of 1841 were men of mark. Some were great men; all were great professors; and we, Alumni of the Jefferson School, owe them much.

And now, in bidding them farewell, may we not experience something of that emotion, which I have often fancied must have stirred the bosoms of the grim veterans of the old French Empire, as the disintombed remains of their Great Captain passed up the Seine to their last resting-place beneath the mighty dome of the Invalides; Respect, Love, Veneration.

So, Dear Friends, Brothers, those of us who have left our School's portals long ago, those passing forth to-day; Veterans, Soldiers under arms, Fresh Recruits, shall we not all fall into line, dress ranks, and stand at "present arms," with muffled drums, and colors drooped, as these great Spirits of our own Dead sweep by?



# ERRATA.

Page 4, line 14 from bottom, *for* "but one," *read* "no."

" 7, " 20 " " *for* "1855," *read* "1857."







